

# First Wasatch Stake Presidency:

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HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

## FIRST WASATCH COUNTY STAKE PRESIDENCY



President Abram Hatch



Thomas H. Giles  
First Counselor



Henry S. Alexander  
Second Counselor

County. The wards at that time were Heber East, Heber West, Midway, Wallsburg, Charleston, Buysville, Upper Daniels, Center, Lake Creek, Francis, Benchcreek, Elkhorn, Riverdale and Woodland. In Uintah County there were Ashley Center, Mill District, Ashley Fork and Merrill Wards.

Some of the stake officers appointed at the time of stake organization were Thomas Todd, president of the Elders Quorum with Orson Hicken and Henry Ohlweiler as counselors. John M. Murdock was named president of the High Priests Quorum with John Jordan and Charles N. Carroll as counselors. Thomas Rashband was appointed to preside over the priests. Thomas Hicken Sr. to preside over teachers and J. Heber Moulton over the deacons. William Forman was named to act as the agent for the Presiding Bishop of the Church. Emma Brown

AND THEY LOVED THE LORD THEIR GOD

47

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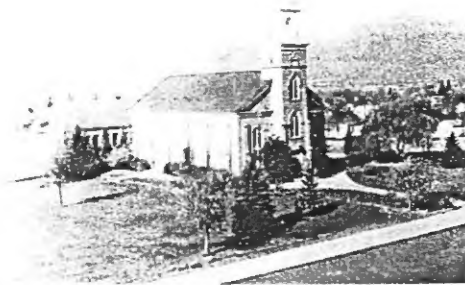
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V BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS



ber 2, 1832, in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, daughter of Cornelius and Permelia Darrow Lott. She died December 2, 1880, leaving two sons, Joseph and A. C., and three daughters, Minnie, Jane and Lacy. Two other children, Charles and John, died in infancy. Married Ruth Woolley in 1882. She was a daughter of Bishop Edwin Woolley of Salt Lake City, and was 25 at time of marriage. She was the mother of six children, Mary Ann, LaPrele, Edwin D. Vermont, Aldura and Luacine.

Abram Hatch, first stake president of Wasatch Stake, was a grandson of a Revolutionary War veteran, Jeremiah Hatch, who came to Plymouth Rock in 1760. His mother died while he was a boy, and his father died in 1841. Abram, with his two brothers and two sisters, Jeremiah, Lorenzo, Adeline and Elizabeth, moved to Illinois to live with grandparents. The children were left considerable money by their father, but it was entrusted to an uncle who used it for himself, leaving the youngsters to do for themselves. Abram had always desired an education, but it was not possible for him to obtain it. When his grandparents died he became a cabin boy on a Mississippi River boat, and later cut cordwood for a living. He worked as an apprentice in a store and learned merchandising. He

## HEBER BIOGRAPHIES

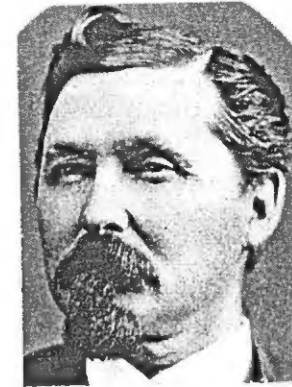
came to Utah in 1850, and was married to Permelia Lott in Lehi in 1852. They built a cabin by Utah Lake and started a farm and small merchandise business in Lehi. He also hauled freight and brought companies of immigrants back to Utah, making 11 trips across the plains. In 1861 he was called on a mission to England, leaving his wife and youngsters at home. His wife managed the farm, store and also ran freight teams to the Missouri River to obtain the needed supplies. She sold provisions to Johnston's Army. When her husband's mission was completed she was able to send him \$10,000 in gold dust to tour Europe and return home. He used most of the money to purchase merchandise enroute home. He bought a threshing machine, the first to come to Utah, and also stocks for the store. Two years after his return he was called by President Brigham Young to move to Heber and serve as bishop of the ward. He later became the first stake president and served 33 years in that position. Active in civic affairs, he was probate judge six years and served in the territorial legislature 23 years, authoring many worthwhile pieces of legislation. He also established a fine merchandising business in Heber and was known as a farmer and banker. His first home in Heber was built on the corner of First North and Main. He later built a large sandstone home east of his mercantile business. His first wife died at the age of 48 and was buried according to her wishes, in Lehi, by the graves of two small sons. He married Ruth Woolley in 1882. She was then 25 years old, and bore him six children, four daughters and two sons. She was a lovely, talented young lady, with a fine singing voice, and was a great help to him as he grew older. He died in Heber on December 2, 1911, and was buried in Heber City Cemetery. It was his wish that he be buried in the county he had helped build and where he had lived so long.

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William and his wife were the parents of 10 children: William Murdock, Nymphas, Coridan, Hattie Josephine, Frederick E., Esther M., Alva M., Joseph E., Reed H., Clyde C. and Eunice L. Hanks.

### ANNA S. DANIELSON HANSEN

Anna S. Danielson Hansen was born January 11, 1833, at Naversta, Bohus County, Sweden. She was the daughter of Daniel Erickson and Lena Anderson Erickson. Her husband, Anders Hansen, was born in Sweden, May 11, 1835. They were married in 1859. In the first two years of their marriage two boys were born to them, but the oldest died in infancy.

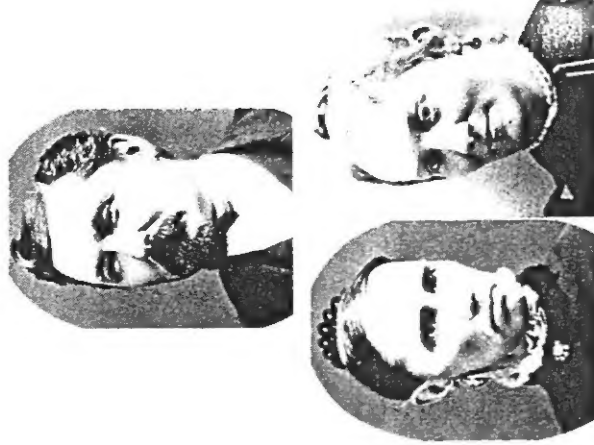
Anna was baptized January 2, 1862, in a frozen stream. On June 19 of that year she gave birth to a baby girl, Augusta.

On May 31, 1866, the family started for America in a sailing vessel. They were 52 days on the water, during which time their second son became sick and died. He was buried at sea. After landing in America they started their journey westward. Anna, with many others, walked most of the way across the plains. They came by ox team in Captain Nebeker's company. Anders waded the Platt River, helping to get the wagons across, and caught cold. He later died from mountain fever and was buried in Wyoming. Anna came on alone with her little girl, arriving in Salt Lake September 29, 1866.

She later became acquainted with Olaus T. Nilsson, who had come west in the same company. They were married in 1868. To this union were born four children. They moved to Heber in 1875. Anna wove carpets and cloth for her family's clothing. She was a kind, loving person and respected by all who knew her. She died April 22, 1905, at the age of 73. She was buried in Heber City.

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THE CHURCH



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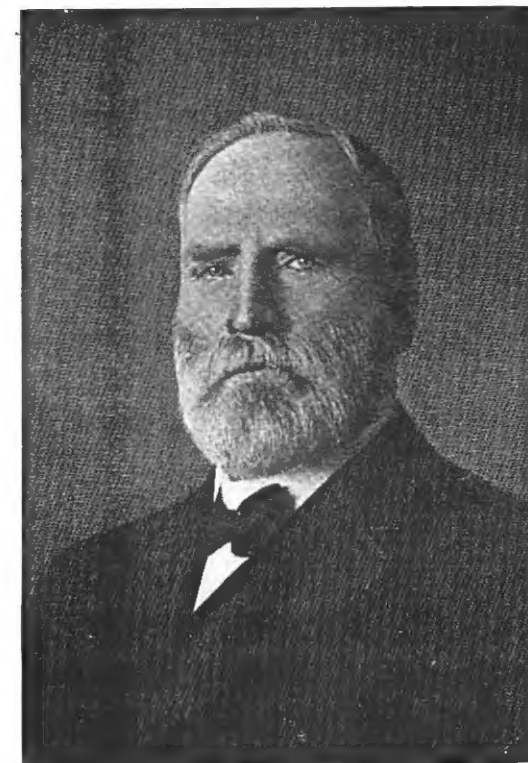
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on Fourth North. Continuing success found him moving to a Main Street location which is now occupied by the Hi-Way Motel.

The store became commonly known as "Mark's Store." Mr. Jeffs promoted the use of his own medium of exchange. He made coins of tin in various denominations which he exchanged for the hay, grain, eggs or any other produce that customers brought in. One side of the coins bore the inscription, "Mark Jeffs, October, 1897, Heber, Utah." On the other side was inscribed "Good for (the value of the coin) in merchandise." Similar coins or "scrip" as it became known was also used later at the Heber Mercantile Company.

In 1903 Mr. Jeffs was called as a missionary for the Church to England. He left Joseph A. Rasband in charge of the store and his other business interests. When he returned from England, Mr. Jeffs sold the store in a newly organized company known as the Heber Mercantile Company. He retained half interest in the new business and acted as manager for a short time and then president of the company. The new venture had a capital stock of \$15,000 when it was formed.

A new building was constructed to house the Heber Merc. and



MARK JEFFS

One of Heber's early merchants.

Joseph A. Rasband became store manager. The Consolidated Wagon and Machine Company occupied space in the south end of the new building. On the upper story there were a variety of tenants. The Wasatch High School met there for several years, there were offices of professional men and the county public welfare office and the library occupied space at various times.

In 1936 an explosion in the building's furnace caused a fire that spread rapidly through the building, destroying completely the store and the library and the U.S. Forest Service office and Welfare office on the second floor. After the fire the company was reorganized and a smaller building was reconstructed. Charles DeGraff became manager of the store, which was later sold to Engman Bond. At the present time most of the building is leased by Safeway and the remaining part houses Christensen's Dry Goods Store.

In 1916, A. Hatch and Company became known as the Heber City Exchange. Managers of the store after Joseph Hatch included Ludvig Anderson, William L. Turner, John A. Anderson, Ray Mahoney and